

## Key Differences in Complementary Variation Analyses of Health Care Delivery in Washington State

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dartmouth Atlas (the Dartmouth Institute)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Washington Inpatient Atlas (OFM-SHP)</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Community Checkup (Puget Sound Health Alliance)</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Scope</i></p> <p><b>National:</b> Compares use of health care services and procedures among states, and sub-state hospital referral regions and hospital service areas. Includes <b>Medicare</b> enrollees only.</p> <p><i>Target Audience:</i> Policy makers and providers</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Analysis</i></p> <p>Provides interactive tools, data, reports on variation in per capita spending, hospital and physician capacity, use of surgical procedures, and intensity of resource use. Studies include acute and chronic conditions and end of life care.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Data Source</i></p> <p><b>Medicare fee-for-service claims data.</b> This data source includes very detailed health care utilization data for a variety of cost centers (inpatient, outpatient, long-term care, drugs, etc.), but only for Medicare enrollees.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Findings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More care and spending don't equal better care</li> <li>• Differences in spending are almost entirely explained by differences in the <i>volume</i> of health care services received by similar patients</li> <li>• Patients' preferences for care vary only slightly across regions</li> <li>• Local "cultures" of health care—local capacity, local social norms and current payment environment—profoundly influence clinical decisions</li> </ul> <p><b>For more information:</b> <a href="http://www.dartmouthatlas.org">http://www.dartmouthatlas.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Scope</i></p> <p><b>Washington State:</b> Compares use of inpatient hospital resources (for selected surgical procedures and potentially avoidable hospitalizations) among state population survey regions. Includes <b>all payer types</b> (Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, etc.)</p> <p><i>Target Audience:</i> Health care policy makers, public purchasers, providers, and plans</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Analysis</i></p> <p>Describes variation and historical trends in use of heart-related surgeries, joint replacements, gall-bladder removal, hysterectomies, appendectomies and tonsillectomies. Also describes variation in adult hospitalizations for ambulatory care sensitive conditions (potentially avoidable hospitalizations).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Data Source</i></p> <p><b>Patient-level hospital discharge data</b> collected by the Department of Health in the Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System (CHARS). This data source includes only community hospital inpatient data; it does not include outpatient or other types of care.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Findings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-state disparities in surgery rates are evident</li> <li>• Selected procedure rates are often highest in eastern regions of the state (e.g., hysterectomies)</li> <li>• King county rates are typically below state average</li> <li>• Although potentially avoidable hospitalizations in Washington state have been continually well below the national average they appear to be increasing in Pierce county relative to other regions</li> </ul> <p><b>For more information:</b> <a href="http://www.ofm.wa.gov/shpo/quality/default.asp">http://www.ofm.wa.gov/shpo/quality/default.asp</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Scope</i></p> <p><b>Puget Sound Region:</b> Compares performance of specific clinics, medical groups and hospitals in King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston counties. Goal is to include <b>all payer types</b> (Medicaid to be included in upcoming reports; Medicare data currently limited by federal law).</p> <p><i>Target Audience:</i> Health care purchasers, providers, plans and consumers</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Analysis</i></p> <p>Provides publicly-available interactive "report card" formatted web tables measuring health care performance of specific medical groups with respect to national guidelines for control of diabetes, heart disease, depression, asthma and low back pain; and use of generic drugs, antibiotics, and preventive care. Individual provider level results currently shared privately with medical groups.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Data Source</i></p> <p><b>Claims data provided by 16 Alliance members.</b> This data source includes all services for WA payers in the 5-county Puget Sound region, but excludes services for uninsured patients. Certain measures are suppressed for some providers where numbers of patients are insufficient for reliable reporting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Findings</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Puget Sound Community Checkup, Nov 2008)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many patients in the region do not receive care recommended by national medical guidelines</li> <li>• Region performs relatively well in caring for diabetes, heart disease, low back pain, and appropriate use of antibiotics, although there is room for improvement</li> <li>• Region performs less well in preventive care and avoiding antibiotics in certain instances</li> <li>• Substantial variation among the region's providers is evident in many performance measures</li> </ul> <p><b>For more information:</b> <a href="http://www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org/">http://www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org/</a></p>